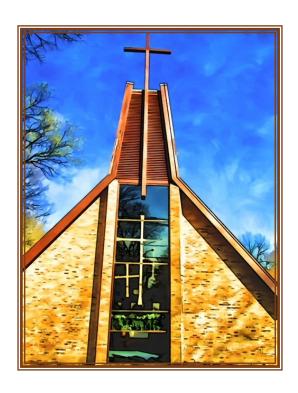
# COME and SEE



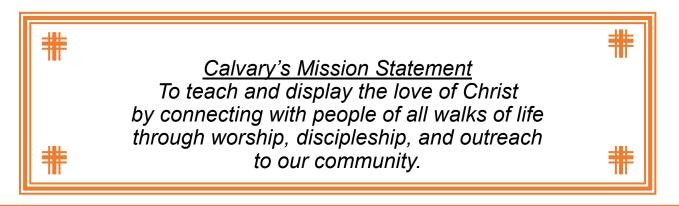
# what's happening at

## **Calvary Lutheran Church**

165 West Crescent Ave 201-327-4786

Allendale New Jersey http://calvaryluth.org

October 2024



# From our Pastor's desk



Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is that you will reveal Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and MAKE OUR HOME WITH THEM. (John 14:22-23)

## Greetings, Calvary Family!

A few weeks ago, my brother preached during the morning service at Calvary. He said something that stirred my soul. He was thanking Calvary for coming into my life, when I needed Calvary the most. He then added these words: "you gave her a place to stay...a place to live." That startled me, because I had not phrased it quite that way before. Yes, I've said to myself and to others: "Whoo-hoo, I get to live in the parsonage!" But it struck me what my brother said. Essentially, that Calvary gave me a HOME, not just a single-family building with walls. My sons and I get to make our home at 70 Ivers Rd. We get to reside, to dwell, to make it our sanctuary, our resting place. For someone who has had many residences since 1995 and even incurred 5 eviction notices during the lowest and most financially fragile time of my life, I think I stopped using the word "home." I would use words like apartment, townhome, condo, rental, etc., but a HOME? The word "home" gives an impression of attachment, of security, of permanence...and THAT is something I have not had for

a very long time.

Calvary, you are the owner of the home that I have the honor to dwell in for this season of my life, but you are also a spiritual HOME to many of our members and friends. By God's grace, you have provided a holy dwelling, a resting place, rooms of security, and a sanctuary for those who enter in with burdens, pain, and loss. Our Calvary home is also a place of giggles, smiles, songs, and many celebrations. One of those celebrations for me was on September 8<sup>th</sup>, when I was installed as your 5<sup>th</sup> pastor here! Thank you to so many of you, behind the scenes, who helped make the service beautiful, our Calvary home clean and pretty, and our reception an inviting place for others to feel AT HOME!

In the same way, how does John 14:23 speak to you? What does it mean that God the Father and Jesus the Son, reveals themselves to us by coming to us, making their home with us? For me, it is the BEST NEWS ever! Our loving Lord does not just want to "play house" with us every Sunday morning . Every minute of each day, let us make room for Jesus, who is our true home. While alive, we have a short period of doing fruitful work, of saying YES to God's love; but even in our death, it is, as Henri Nouwen writes, "a full coming home to that love." May we have this joyful vision of HOME and may we continue to be a refuge and HOME to many!

Keep on Trusting, Keep on Loving...

In Christ's Service, Pastor Kara



# October 5 Food, Fun, Friends!

GAMES 4 KIDS

BOUNCE HOUSE

Mum sale

Consessions

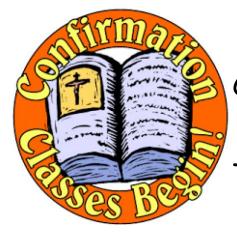
Garage/Rummage Sale

**AND MORE!!!!** 

## **SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:**

Our Fall Festival Planning Committee has been working hard to make Calvary's FIRST Fall Festival a fun & rewarding one for Calvary & the families of this community!

Please volunteer for a short 2 hour session by emailing CALVARYLUTHERANFALLFESTIVAL@gmail.com



Calvary joins with the youth at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to experience Confirmation together!

Although it is mainly comprised of 8th & 9th graders, high-schoolers of any age are welcome to join! It occurs once a month (Oct-May) on Sundays 4:30-6 pm.

Let P.Kara know if you have any questions or for more info, feel free to check out Redeemer's website: <a href="https://www.redeemerramsey.org/youth.html">https://www.redeemerramsey.org/youth.html</a>



Interested in learning more about the church or in becoming a member?

If so, please contact the office or Pastor Kara!

We will be offering an information session this Fall.

# October Worship Assistants



| DATE                                   | ALTAR GUILD                          | COMMUNION<br>ASSISTANTS                 | GREETERS          | LECTOR            | USHERS                          | Counters                         |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 6<br>green                             | Cindy<br>Strauch<br>Christine<br>Kim | Cindy<br>Strauch<br>Christina<br>Metri  | Cindy<br>Strauch  | George<br>Strauch | George Strauch<br>Jon Tangen    | Alma Costello<br>Marilyn Agresta |
| 13<br>green                            | Alma<br>Costello                     | ***                                     | Hollands          | Mike<br>Levitzke  | Ned Roller<br>Mike Levitzke     | Alma Costello<br>Marilyn Agresta |
| 20<br>green                            | Alma<br>Costello                     | ****                                    | George<br>Strauch | Nancy<br>Holland  | George Strauch<br>Ned Roller    | Alma Costello<br>Marilyn Agresta |
| 27<br>Reformation                      | Kathy<br>Peterson                    | K.Peterson<br>Alma Costello             | Peterson          | Rachel<br>Dillon  | Jim Peterson<br>Jon Tangen      | Alma Costello<br>Marilyn Agresta |
| Nov 3<br>All Saints<br>Sunday<br>white | Kathy<br>Peterson                    | George<br>Strauch<br>Kristine<br>Nooney | Glaeser           | Laura<br>Heitman  | George Strauch<br>Mike Levitzke | Alma Costello<br>Marilyn Agresta |

Worship Assistants - Please Note: In case of a conflict, please find a substitute and then inform the church office at 201-327-4786



# NEEDED! USHERS & GREETERS



Join the ranks of our welcoming ushers and greeters!

If you are willing to serve in either or both of these important roles, speak with Kathy Peterson. Training or partnerships available

# Reformation Sunday October 27th

Scripture Alone Faith Alone

Glory to God Alone





Celebrate the years of faithful ministry through Calvary and look forward to the year to come!



If you would like us to include a person who died this past year in the Prayers of the Church on All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd, please contact the church office

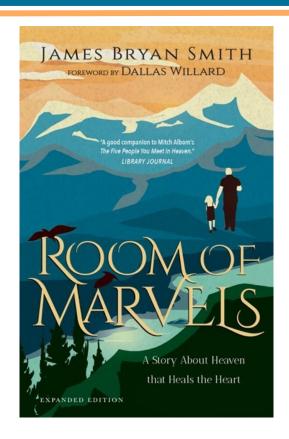
(201-327-4786) before October 28th



We hope your child will join us to learn about the Bible, church seasons, and the Lutheran faith!

10:30 October 6, 20, and 27

(Note: no Sunday School October 13)



# Join us for the next Book Discussion & Potluck Gathering on Tues. November 12 6:30

We are reading\_
Room of Marvels:
A Story About Heaven that Heals the Heart

BY JAMES BRYAN SMITH

From http://jamesbryansmith.com:

Three deaths in three years. His mother. His best friend. And now, his two-year-old daughter.

In this moving story a Christian author goes to a retreat center to grieve and face the hard questions about God that he is asking in the wake of these losses.

If you have ever felt alone, betrayed, abandoned—if you have found yourself asking God why—this novel may be a source of hope. And if you have ever wondered what heaven is like, this book provides a beautiful vision. *Room of Marvels* is a masterful, dream-like tale that speaks to the eternal in the midst of our most painful earthly losses. This expanded edition of the beloved book has a new afterword from James Bryan Smith and a discussion guide for group use. Finding your room of marvels will give you reason to live. Again.

James Bryan Smith is the author of the Good and Beautiful Series which includes *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful You*, *The Good and Beautiful Life*, and *The Good and Beautiful Community*.

He earned his MDiv at Yale and his DMin at Fuller and is a theology professor at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas, where he also serves as the director of the <u>Apprentice Institute for Christian Spiritual Formation</u>.

A founding member of Richard J. Foster's spiritual renewal ministry, <u>Renovaré</u>, Smith is an ordained United Methodist Church minister and has served in various capacities in local churches. He is the editor of *A Spiritual Formation Work-book* and *Devotional Classics* (with Richard Foster), and the author of *Embracing the Love of God, Rich Mullins: An Arrow Pointing to Heaven, Room of Marvels, The Magnificent Story*, and *The Magnificent Journey*.

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Your Calvary family wishes you a happy birthday and joy in the year to come.



October 3 Lauren Nasta

Paul Parisi

October 4 Rachel Dillon

October 8 Jackie Nacion

October 12 Lindsey DeCavaignac

October 13 Mark Rohsler

Barbara Rohsler

October 14 Michaela MacFarran

Amanda Levitzke

October 15 Terry Stoltz

October 16 Christine Kim

Michael MacFarran

Carol Ray

October 17 Alma Baird

October 22 Michael Taliercio

Leigh Allister

October 23 Elise Carter

Bob Ray

October 25 Emily Hosford

October 27 Jerry DelGatto

October 28 Natalie Kinahan

October 30 John McDonough

Adriana Nivia-Feeley

Church records are missing some birthday dates. We want to celebrate everyone! Please take note each month and if you notice that your birthday, or that of any Calvary member is not listed, please inform the office!



# BIBLE STUDY

Join us to learn more about

THE BOOK OF RUTH

and share thoughts on the PORTALS of PRAYER for the day

Tuesdays

October 8 and 22

2:00-3:00



Ready or not, the holiday season is approaching and supplies are needed to complete the **Christmas-at-Sea** satchels. Hoodies, t-shirts, knitted hats, thermal and crew socks and a holiday card are the requested items. There are so many people who leave home and family behind for long periods of time to serve us by working on cargo vessels or seek asylum and become detained in prison-like conditions. We can show them that they are appre-



ciated and remembered by sharing a little Christmas cheer. Our collection is year-round but the we must deliver the satchels on December 1.



We are including Operation Christmas Child in our missions this holiday season. Please remember that the filled boxes must be returned to Calvary by **Sunday, October 27.** Thank you to all who participated.

Thank you for donating during the summer months. Our Back-to-School and diaper donations were very much appreciated. The urgent need for DIAPERS continues. It is not too early to begin donating to the CFA's



Thanksgiving collection. The list of food items requested is listed here: frozen turkeys (take to the Center directly), gravy, instant potatoes, canned veggies, hearty soups, canned yams, rice, canned cranberry sauce, pasta sauce, stuffing, and baking mixes.

Grocery store gift cards of \$20 or \$25 dollars are very much appreciated. Please hand those to Lori McCue or Cindy Strauch instead of placing them in the wagons.



Our friends in Haiti, Honduras and all over the world are excited to receive one special item! What is it? The answer is a **TOOTHBRUSH**!! In so many areas, people go without or share toothbrushes. We will be holding a special packing party soon so please purchase toothbrushes and toothpaste as you shop. Our Project SMILE box is in the narthex.



If you have any questions, contact Lori McCue

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE.



### **Update on GT Water Honduras Visit: Transforming Lives with Clean Water**

Flying into Tegucigalpa, Honduras, you're greeted by a sea of green breaking through the cloud cover. Below lies a sprawling co-capital city, surrounded by loosely organized slums that stretch into the hills. The higher you go, the more impoverished the people become.

Groups of 30-50 people organize and elect a leader. They then move to the edge of public land bordering the last squatter settlement, measure out plots, and start building makeshift shelters from tin and tarp. Over the years, these structures evolve with rebar, cinder blocks, concrete, and even steel, gradually becoming more permanent.

In the beginning, these new homes lack basic utilities. Private water tanker trucks arrive first, charging \$2 for 5 gallons of water of uncertain origin—a significant expense in a community where many earn \$150 a month or less. Residents often resort to collecting rainwater or hiking miles to gather water rather than pay for it. After about three years, electricity reaches the homes. Ten to fifteen years later, local officials may survey the plots and issue land titles, allowing for the connection of running water and paved streets. While municipal water is generally free from major pathogens, many report skin rashes from drinking the untreated tap water.

This cycle of squatting continues up the steep dirt roads of the city hills, and this is where GT Water Honduras does some of its most impactful work.



On our first day in the field, we hosted an instruction and distribution event at a local church, far up the steep dirt roads. We typically distribute 10-30 water filter systems to the many women who attend, often with their children in tow. The children are excited and joyful to see visitors, while the women are focused on securing the welfare of their families.

These women understand that with a GT Water filter system, they can protect their families from chronic diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, parasites, and other wa-

terborne diseases. They know they can save time by not having to collect water from remote locations and save money that can go towards food, healthcare, and education by no longer relying on expensive water tanker trucks. Additionally, each family at the event received a bag of beans, a bag of rice, and a Smile kit (dental hygiene supplies).

The recipients left this event in good spirits, full of gratitude, and proud that they are taking steps to improve their families' welfare. Our local team received warm handshakes and hugs, with promises to return in the coming months to ensure the systems are functioning properly and being regularly used. On the second day of our visit, we conducted a follow-up mission in a different location—a lower, older slum. Some of the recipients we visited have had their systems for as long as three years. They expressed their gratitude for the clean water that keeps their families healthy and saves them money.

With regular cleaning, the filter systems can last up to 25 years. Our local team always asks how often the recipients clean their filters, which is a simple process of reversing water through the filter with a provided syringe. Some clean the filter daily (a bit excessive), most every 7-14 days (the recommended schedule), and one household mentioned cleaning every 3-4 weeks. The GT Water Honduras team reviewed the laminated instruction card attached to the bucket with the client and suggested more frequent cleanings.

While field visits are the highlight of the trip, we also spent valuable time with our local team discussing

current operations and future plans. We inspected the warehouse and workshop and were pleased to see the most recent shipments of materials filling the warehouse to the rafters, knowing that these systems will soon be deployed to new families in need. In the end, this endeavor is about people—whether our many clients or our local team and suppliers, we are making a difference in their lives and the lives

of their families. They are growing up healthier, living safer, and their children are receiving an education—all because of regular access to clean water (~\$1.89 per person for a lifetime of water).

## They are living better lives because of you, our supporters, and our local team members.

The outstanding memories from this recent trip are the smiles and laughter of the children. Watching them at the event, I couldn't help but think that they now have a better chance in life because of clean water. Hopefully, they will break the cycle of poverty and make it out of the slums. While we can't guarantee this will happen, we know that access to clean water has greatly improved their odds.



GT Water Project is a small, lean non-profit that has provided clean water to over 900,035 people in Honduras and Haiti since 2016. We work through fairly paid local teams and have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the local community by paying salaries, procuring services, and buying supplies. While we are constantly striving to do more and serve more, we are content knowing that for the clients we have served, the clean water filter system has made a significant and tangible difference in their lives.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards.

Carl

P.S. Our GT Water Haiti team continues its vital work despite the intense security and political situation. They are delivering and providing instruction for about 200 water filter systems each week. While our U.S. team has been unable to visit Haiti for the past year, we hold weekly video meetings.

for more info : www.gtwater.org

# New Offering-Delivery Option via Zelle

At the request of members and visitors, we have made electronic donations available through Zelle. This QR code will also be available on our website, www.calvaryluth.org, and we are working to make it easily accessible in the pews. Stay tuned!







#### STEWARDSHIP ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

The ELCA identifies 10 Principles of Stewardship. The following is taken from the ELCA website. We have shared the principles and their verses over the past few newsletters for your consideration.

Our role as God's stewards is one of many dimensions— grateful, responsible, self sacrificing, willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, genuine, and challenged. By generously giving of ourselves, we discover joy in Christ. You must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7



Principle 10: Accept a challenge means recognizing the dynamic nature of our faith. As our faith grows so will our blessings, and our responsibilities.

Paul writes, " ... the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

2 Corinthians 9:6

# **Be On the Lookout!**

The Calvary Office has established a second email account because we were made aware that some members are not receiving emails from the <a href="mailto:office@calvaryluth.org">office@calvaryluth.org</a> address.

You might receive emails from <u>calvaryluth@gmail.com</u>. It's legit!



# November 22-24 at the Sheraton Edison. All youth grades 6-12 and their adult leaders

are invited to join us for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun!

Our theme is "Created To Be", following the ELCA Youth Gathering and summer camp theme!

Registration is open now until November 1st.

The cost for the entire weekend, including hotel room, meals, and an event t-shirt is \$150 (reduced price!). Scholarships are available.

For more information and to register, visit: https://www.njsynod.org/youth-events



# October 20th come kick it with your fellow Lutherans and the NJ Youth Ministry Team!

Calling all youth groups and their leaders from NJ Synod congregations to join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and celebration of women in sports!

This event is open to all ages, making it a great opportunity for youth, families, and leaders to come together and enjoy an exciting match featuring some of the world's best women athletes.



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                         | Friday | Saturday                                |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|--------|---|
|  | 30 September Worship & Music Meeting 7:30                                       | 1<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45                         | 2<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Choir practice<br>7:30  | 3<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45  | 4      | 5<br>Fall Festival<br>w/ Garage<br>Sale |
| 6<br>10:30 Sunday School<br>10:30 Communion Service  | 7<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45   | 8<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Bible Study<br>2:00  | 9<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Choir practice<br>7:30  | 10<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45 | 11     | 12                                      |
| 13<br>10:30 Worship Service  | 14<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45  | 15<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45                        | 16<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Choir practice<br>7:30 | 17<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45 | 18     | 19                                      |
| 20 9:30 Council Meeting 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service  11:45 Thrivent sponsored lunch/estate planning info | 21<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45  | 22<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Bible Study<br>2:00 | 23<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Choir practice<br>7:30 | 24<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45 | 25     | 26                                      |
| 27 Reformation Sunday 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Service  wear red  Operation Christmas Child boxes due       | 28 office hours 9:45-11:45  Send Names for All Saints Day Service to the office | 29<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45                        | 30<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45<br>Choir practice<br>7:30 | 31<br>office hours<br>9:45-11:45 |        |   |



# Church Information

#### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Holland President

Alma Costello Vice President

Gerry DelGatto Secretary

Carl Glaeser Treasurer

Mercedes Caes Stewardship liaison

Marilyn Agresta Worship & Music liaison

Christine Souza Outreach liaison

Christina Metri Caring liaison

Kristine Nooney Education liaison

Tori Gooden Property liaison

If you are in need of pastoral support, please contact:

Rev. Kara Song

through the church office

Office Administrator: Edward Farnhagen
Office Phone 201-327-4786

Office E-Mail: office@calvaryluth.org

Office Hours: M,W,F 9:15-11:45
Website: www.calvaryluth.org

Find us on Facebook

#### **MINISTERS AND WITNESSES:**

All the people of Calvary Lutheran Church

Music Director
Elise Carter

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

#### CARING

Laurie Jacober Janet Berger\

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Nancy Glaeser

### **OUTREACH**

Lori McCue

#### **PROPERTY**

George Strauch

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Marilyn Agresta

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Kathy Peterson

# The Ordination of Kara Song













































Installation of Sunday School Teachers











Allendale Day 2024



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism



A Message from Pastor Julie Han Gregg



Congratulations to Tori, Edward, Edward, and grandmother Diana!!! Welcome Willow Rose!







Blessing of the Animals





A Little Rain—A lot of food and fellowship!